

VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT

PUBLIC HEARING

August 5, 2013

Solicitor Hess called the meeting to order. He introduced himself as the Solicitor for the Village of Commercial Point. Solicitor Hess said we are here for a Public Hearing on the proposed JEDD contract. Solicitor Hess said there was a sign-up sheet for individuals who wanted to chance to speak tonight. He said DRC has requested a waiver of time allowed. Mr. Steven Young, Counsel for the DRC has requested additional time to speak on behalf of the DRC. Solicitor Hess allowed the request for additional time, however the meeting is on a time limit of one hour. Solicitor Hess appreciates everyone's behavior knowing there are strong feeling for the JEDD and against the JEDD. He asked for respect towards Council and fellow speakers.

Solicitor Hess asked Ms. Hastings a few questions before the presentations began. He asked her if she was the Clerk for the Village Council. Ms. Hastings said she was. He then asked Ms. Hastings if she posted a publication in the July 3, 2013 Circleville Herald announcing this meeting. Again, Ms. Hastings replied yes.

At this time, Solicitor Hess introduced Mr. Steven Young. Mr. Young introduced himself as Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. He thanked Ms. Gooden-Kinney, Mayor Hammond and the rest of Council for allowing him to speak tonight. He said he was also here tonight to represent Brian Cook, Warden at the Pickaway Correctional Institution, Rhonda Richards, Warden at the Correctional Reception Center, Allan Lazaroff, Deputy Director of Human Resources for the Department of Corrections, and Jenny Landack, Acting Superintendent at the Corrections Training Academy. He said these are the people that represent all 1,100 employees of the DRC working at that facility. He continued with the following, and I quote" Thank You for the opportunity to explain DRC's position concerning the Joint Economic Development District, otherwise known as the JEDD, contract between the Scioto Township, the City of Grove City, and the Village of Commercial Point, the contracting parties. The JEDD contract reads that the contracting parties desire to create the JEDD 'pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections (ORC) 715.72 through ORC 715.81.' It is DRC's contention, however that the contracting parties have not complied with all of the applicable statutory requirements for the creation and implementation of the JEDD. Furthermore, and most importantly, DRC opposes the JEDD because it directly harms more than 1,100 hard-working employees of the Orient Correctional Complex (OCC) by unfairly imposing a new income tax upon them without representation. I would like to read an exert from the Columbus Dispatch article concerning this JEDD contract that was published July 17. It says The Ohio Civil Service Employee Association which represents unionized correction officers and other employees at the state prison complex, questions the motivation and need for the tax. "We oppose it vehemently. It's a slap in the face to (prison) employees" who have had no pay raises in recent years, said Tim Schafer, the union's operations director and a former Pickaway Correctional Institution correction officer. Mr. Young continued. The statutory purpose for a JEDD is clear. A JEDD contract should be created for the purpose of facilitating economic development to create or preserve jobs and employment opportunities and to improve the economic welfare of the people in this state and in the area of the contracting parties. This is pursuant to ORC 715.72 C. In its purest form, a JEDD allows for a regional approach to economic development. A JEDD contract requires the contracting parties to share the benefits and responsibilities of commercial or industrial development. This stated statutory

purpose is not, and cannot be, satisfied for this proposed JEDD when the contracting parties have set aside, at most, only a single 1.1 acre plat of commercial zoned property out of the 1,317.8 total acres comprising the JEDD territory. This small 1.1 acre plat comprises barely 0.08% of the entire JEDD territory. A surveyor of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services reviewed the legal description of the proposed JEDD and indicated that the JEDD territory consists of a total of about 1,317.8 acres of land. Nearly all of that acreage, 1,316.2 is zoned as a Special Use District, and is owned by the State of Ohio. The State's property consists of the OCC, which is comprised of three operating DRC facilities: the Correctional Reception Center, the Pickaway Correctional Institution, and the Corrections Training Academy. The remaining 1.6 acre plat of the JEDD territory is comprised of a single 1.1 acre plat, zoned General Commercial District, owned by Scioto Township, and a single 0.5 acre plat, zoned Planned Unit Residential Development, owned by the Village of Commercial Point. Notably, two large water towers are located on the 0.5 acre Village plat. It is undisputed that the proposed JEDD contract does not meet the statutory purpose of facilitating economic development when 99.88% of the JEDD territory is owned by the State, is zoned as a Special Use District, and cannot be commercially or economically developed. This proposed JEDD territory is not zoned in a manner appropriate to the purpose and function of the proposed district. The relevant sections of the ORC Chapter 715 governing the creation of a JEDD requires that a JEDD have sufficient territory appropriately zoned and used for commercial or industrial development which will enable the creation and preservation of jobs or employment opportunities and improve the economic welfare of Ohioans and those living in the area of the contracting parties. Here the proposed plan for economic development of this JEDD completely fails of its essential statutory purpose because 99.88% of the JEDD territory, consisting of the State of Ohio's land is located in a Special Use District and is not subject to commercial or industrial zoning. The proposed contribution of 1.1 acres of commercially zoned land by the Township and 0.5 acre of residentially zoned land by the Village is not sufficient for the meaningful regional, let alone local, economic development. Furthermore, our review of the Village's 0.5 acre plat reveals that such plat cannot be adequately developed given the presence of the two large water towers. And our review of the Township's 1.1 acre plat shows that its use is restricted to "offices, motels, hotels, retail and other uses as approved by the Design Review Committee." See restrictions of record in Official Record with the Pickaway County Recorder's Office, Pickaway County, Ohio. These restrictions prohibit industrial development and any meaningful commercial development that is contemplated under ORC Chapter 715. Given the absence of any viable plan for economic development of the JEDD Territory, the sole purpose of this JEDD becomes transparent: the JEDD territory is being developed to generate revenues from income taxes that are levied by the JEDD Board of Directors on the more than 1,100 DRC employees working within the OCC. This fact is demonstrated by the proposed Economic Development Plan, attached to the JEDD contract, which consists primarily of imposing an income tax on the persons working within the JEDD, namely the 1,100 employees working at the OCC. The Plan proposes that those tax proceeds be used to provide public services, facilities, and improvements, ostensibly to foster economic development. But when 99.88% of the JEDD territory is not capable of any economic development, these tax proceeds cannot facilitate any significant economic development. I would also like to read from another Columbus Dispatch article, an expert that was published July 22. It is called *Are economic-development districts really just a tax grab?* It is an article about this proposed JEDD contract. "The prison project upsets Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Canton, who says that economic development was the driving force behind the 1995 law that he sponsored and should continue to be.

"If someone is using this in a way just to find more people to pay taxes, with no economic-development potential, it's a tax grab, and that violates the spirit of the law," said Schuring, who plans to find ways to close "anomalies of the law" that he says allow lawyers to misuse the districts.

"It's flat out not fair when you go in and grab a certain payroll of employees," he said. "To me, it sounds like they're being held up."

Mr. Young continued. "Additionally, the primary purpose of the proposed JEDD as a tax district is shown in the JEDD contract wherein the City of Grove City is neither providing industrial nor commercially zoned land nor services, facilities, and improvements for the JEDD, but merely income tax administration, collection and enforcement. Using the income tax that would be assessed equal to 2.25% rate of Grove City, DRC has calculated that at least 63% of OCC staff would be levied income tax. The tax revenues will be earmarked by Scioto Township and the Village of Commercial Point for a "fully staffed Fire and EMT Department," quoting Village Mayor Joe Hammond from his Village report dated 4/12/13. Such use of tax proceeds is not facilitation of economic development and does not serve the fundamental statutory purpose for the proposed JEDD. Also you've heard from Mr. Struckman, speaking as a Scioto Township Trustee, about a 911 call center being funded by the JEDD tax dollars. This is not economic development. Especially when less employees would be operating this facility under his plan. He also spoke about "eight lawyers reviewing and approving the contract". Mr. Steven Smith, Grove City Law Director, stated only 4 attorneys examined the JEDD contract. I surmise all four attorneys either work for the contracting parties or retain such as Mr. Brosius, for the Scioto Township, because of his opinion. Once again, I will quote from the July 17, Columbus Dispatch article where Mr. Brosius says, "that the prison complex has sapped the township's resources for years and has provided no taxes in return. "It could help (Scioto Township) tremendously," Brosius said of the new revenue. "The prison is a user of services. To get there, you have to use township roads. But they pay nothing." Mr. Young continued. I agree that the prison "is paying no taxes" because townships cannot legally assess taxes. However Mr. Brosius, with all due respect, is totally off base with his quote "sapped the township's resources for years" and "they pay nothing". In fact, I hold a document which indicates that for at least eight years between 2004 and 2011, the DRC paid the township \$ 683,773.00 per year for EMS services at the OCC. OCC employees still pay out of their own pockets \$ 1,000 - \$ 2,000 for each township EMS run for their benefit. I recall approximately 20 years ago, the DRC paid about a quarter million dollars to the township to finance the purchase of their first modern fire truck. I contend with this level of financial contribution, the DRC built the Scioto Township Fire and EMS services into what it is today, plus DRC also provides at a subsidized or lower rate, water and sewer services to the residents of Pickaway County, Scioto Township and the Village of Orient.

The contracting parties will share the benefits of tax revenues without any responsibilities such as providing commercial and/or industrial zoned land for economic development, and/or services, facilities, and improvements, to attract private development. But again, even if those parties could attract some private development, such development would only be minimal at best, given the extremely small 1.6 acre plat of the JEDD territory that could ever be developed.

Village of Commercial Point Mayor Hammond publicly stated that this JEDD would be "free money for at least 50 years." With all due respect to Mayor Hammond, this money is anything but free. Rather, these monies are tax revenues off the hard-earned income of the 1,100 plus employees at OCC, who, for every minute of every hour of every working day, put themselves in harm's way to keep the residents of the Village, Scioto Township, and Grove City, safe and secure. Mr. Brian Liff, who is here today, indicates he would pay \$ 800 in taxes which would hurt his family of five.

Under ORC Chapter 715, after the required public hearings have been held, and after each contracting party has adopted an ordinance or resolution, then the contracting parties shall jointly file with both the Pickaway and Franklin County Commissioners a number of required documents, including a copy of the signed JEDD contract and a petition that is signed by a majority of the owners of property located within the JEDD area. See ORC 715.76. The Village and Township, as the petitioners, constitute the majority of the land owners, as DRC is the only other owner.

The action of the contracting parties, the Village and Township, however, in also signing the petition as the majority of the property owners, two of the three, with State/DRC being the other, creates an inherent conflict of interest. Nowhere in ORC Chapter 715 is it contemplated that the parties who signed the JEDD contract would be signing the petition, as majority property owners, to be submitted to the County Commissions. By proceeding with this JEDD contract and submitting a signed petition as majority property owners, arguably the statutory intent of Chapter 715 has been circumvented.

My legal office reviewed eighteen of the most recently filed JEDD contracts with the Ohio Department of Development. In none of those cases were the contracting parties also the majority property owners who were signing the required petition. In all of those JEDD contracts, the majority of property owners were not party to the JEDD contract. Finally, none of those JEDDs included a super-majority property owner, of the acreage of the JEDD territory, opposing the JEDD petition, as is the case here with DRC.

If the contracting parties do not file all of the statutorily required documents then the County Commissioners may adopt a resolution disapproving the creation of the JEDD. See ORC 715.76. Here, DRC believes the County Commissioners should disapprove the proposed JEDD since the petition is not properly signed by a majority of disinterested landowners, which is contemplated by ORC Chapter 715.

Next, it is our understanding that the Scioto Township Trustees, in accordance with ORC sections 715.72 through 715.81, has decided to not submit its resolution approving the JEDD contract to its electors for approval at the next election. But ORC 715.77 (A) (1) specifically provides that the Township may only choose this option, to not submit the resolution approving the JEDD contract to its electors, if the following two conditions are met:

- 1) The creation of the JEDD is proposed at the request of a majority of the land owners included within the proposed district; and
- 2) The territory in the proposed JEDD is zoned in a manner appropriate to the function of the proposed district.

In this case, neither of these two conditions has been met. Therefore, the Township must proceed by submitting the proposed JEDD contract to the Township electorate for approval at the next general election.

Here, nearly all of the 1,317.8 acres of the proposed JEDD territory is owned by the State/DRC, and is zoned for special use. It is not, and cannot be, zoned for commercial use, which is the manner appropriate to the function of the proposed district in this JEDD. Similarly, the Township's 0.5 acre plat is zoned for planned unit residential development, which is not appropriate to the function of the proposed district. Also, the Village and Township, as majority landowners, are contracting parties and, therefore, not disinterested landowners as is contemplated by ORC Chapter 715.

Since neither of these required conditions under ORC 715.77 (A) (1) can be met for waiver of vote, the resolution must be brought before the Township electorate for a vote on approving the JEDD contract.

Certainly, local government entities should not violate a governing principal of ensuring that its constituents are free from taxation without representation.

Finally, pursuant to ORC 715.76, after submission of the petition, the Franklin and Pickaway County Commissioners must either approve or disapprove the creation of the proposed JEDD contract. At the present time, at each of the public hearings on this matter, and at any meetings of the respective County Commissioners, DRC will continue to take the position that creation of the proposed JEDD contract does not serve the primary purpose of facilitating economic development, but rather severely harms the more than 1,100 DRC employees at OCC who face the prospect of an additional 2.25% income tax on their hard-earned income. DRC's advocacy is intended to convince local government officials to disapprove the JEDD contract.

If the JEDD contracts are approved, however, DRC will continue to oppose the JEDD contract before both the Franklin and Pickaway County Commissions, and request their respective disapproval of the JEDD. Should either County Commission decide to approve the JEDD, DRC may take all action it deems necessary to protect its interests, the interests of its 1,100 employees at OCC, and the State's interests, including seeking appropriate court relief.

For at least three decades, the DRC has been a great neighbor of the Village of Commercial Point. DRC respectfully requests that the Council disapproves the creation of the JEDD contract because it will only raise \$ 10,000 per year for the Village coffers, while costing OCC and its employees over \$ 1,000,000 per year. Thank you very much for your time."

At this time, Solicitor Hess called on Mr. Brian Liff. Mr. Liff handed out copies of a packet of information he put together. (Copy attached to hard copy of minutes in Municipal Office) Mr. Liff read through the packet pointing out what he felt was important for Council to know. He said, and I quote, "The first two pages you find in here are from July 25, 2011 and from May 3, 2011. These both came from the Scioto Township Fire Department. This is when they put on their fire levy. Both fire levies failed. Within a six month time period, Scioto Township Fire Department mismanaged over \$ 200,000. In one of these documents, it says for 2012 the projected deficit was \$ 126,000. The next paper that was submitted, less than six months later, has a deficit of \$ 329,000. How in six months do you lose or mismanage \$ 200,000? They also put on the two fire levies failed. They also put on a Township levy for the roads. That levy also failed. The people of this area have spoken. They are done and tired of the mismanagement of the Township and Fire Department. Next page is the Ohio Township letter dated May 9, 2013. Seventy-three levies were voted on in the State of Ohio. Of those seventy-three levies, 61% or 45 of those levies were for fire and safety services. Of those that were submitted on the ballot for the electors, only three failed. It is not a matter of needing the money. It is a matter of the people are tired of the fire department and mismanagement of the funds. Next page in the packet is a breakdown of a comparison of Scioto Township vs. Mt. Sterling, EMT. The last time I was here and spoke, I was told that I was misquoting them because I only included one. I went back and got the other figures to compare the Fire and EMS of Mt. Sterling. Per square mile, Scioto Township right now just in their tax revenue, is \$ 16,044 per square mile. Mt. Sterling is \$ 9,500. The dollars spent in tax revenue alone, not including any other grants or funds that have come in, tax money alone for the hours worked for Scioto Township is \$ 114 per hour that they say they have coverage. Mt. Sterling is \$ 64. It is not a matter of this County needing more money. They need to manage the money they have. The next page I have is part of the contract. From 715.74 as quoted from the Ohio Revised Code Section 3, it says 'A resolution levying an income tax under this section shall require the contracting parties to annually set aside a percentage, to be stated in the resolution, of the amount of the income tax collected for the

long-term maintenance of the district.' If you guys will look through your contracts, the contract states on page 12, section 8, 'On the first business day of each quarter, the Administrator shall provide the District with an amount sufficient for the long-term maintenance of the district and to pay the outstanding or expected expenses of the operation of the district for that quarter. On the tenth business day of the month, the money gets divided up amongst the areas.' Scioto Township wants a blank check. They are not willing to put in a percentage according to the Ohio Revised Code, it is required, to limit themselves as to what they can spend. They are going to take their money off the top, spend whatever they want to, and then give you what is left.

The next page I have here is directed at the Mayor. 2011 Mayor Hammond ran for Mayor of the Village. One of the levies that he ran on was the RITA tax. City Council opposed a 1% income tax without consideration of public opinion. The public opinion has already spoke. They turned down three levies for the Scioto Township. This was accomplished simply because it was permitted by law, which is what you are doing by passing this JEDD. Trying to pass it because it is permitted by law. After repeated attempts, elected officials refused to consider this unpopular action. Mr. Mayor, this is what you ran on. This is now what you are doing to us, the employees of the Orient Correctional Institution. You are trying to tax us simply because it is permitted under this section of the law. This is what you ran on to get elected, and now you are going to turn around and do it back to us. What is the price that you sold your soul for? \$ 10,000 a year? That's what they are telling you, you are going to get? On the last page, I did a spreadsheet. In order to get to \$ 10,000 a year that Commercial Point was told they are getting, you would have to get to the 2006 payroll from the Orient Correctional Institute. Then to get to that you would have to take off 10% to get to the JEDD. That would mean Scioto Township is only going to take 10% to run their JEDD in order for you to get to \$ 10,000 a year. If you look down at the bottom of it, I broke it down by 50% Northgate JEDD. Their JEDD says it is 50%. If Scioto Township takes 50% of the funds in order to run their JEDD, Commercial Point's 1% drops down to \$ 4,000 a year. Of all of the other JEDD's that are in there, Northgate being the example, the other JEDD that is here in Pickaway County, the funds are divided 33, 33, 33. My question to Council, Why does Grove City get 10% of the funds when they put no property up? They are putting nothing towards this JEDD. You guys are putting property up and are getting 1%? What else is being included? My figures on the Township came to \$ 8.5 million dollars that OCC has paid Scioto Township for their fire and ems. Scioto Township charges \$ 1,000 vs. Advanced EMS charges \$ 395. This is money the State of Ohio is saving you as taxpayers. This is why we are here, because we decided to go with a contractor to save you money. Last meeting we had, Mr. Struckman proposed a 911 call center. No we are proposing that the roadways need improved. Scioto Township is only responsible for half of the roads in this township. So where is all the money going? Now we are going to go back and he is changing his story that the money is now going to the fire department. We have to fully staff the fire department. According to the Chief, we are only down two people. Your fire department is only short two people to run at full staff. So where is the money going? If we are going to do fair shares as everybody says, you want to pay your fair share, then why are we not being charged the 1% like you guys are. Why are you penalizing us over twice as much for the taxes? Why aren't you the taxing district? Why is it that you are going after and singling us out? This contract, if you guys vote on this contract tonight, you are voting on this contract as it is written. Last meeting there were talks that there is already sidebar agreements and other agreements that are coming with this contract. You have to vote on this contract as it reads. Giving Scioto Township a blank check and taking whatever crumbs they leave over and throw your way. That is all I got."

Solicitor Hess called on Mr. Hollon. Mr. Hollon stood up and addressed Council and I quote, "Good evening. Mr. Young included several articles that were in the Columbus Dispatch. There was an article in the Circleville Herald over the weekend. I just wanted to redress some of the comments." Mr. Shelton asked him to restate his name. "Terry Hollon, Corrections Officer at Pickaway Corrections.

Again I just want to redress some of the comments that were made by Mike Struckman to the Circleville Herald concerning the proposed JEDD. There were a lot of things that were said to go out of their way, to do whatever it takes to justify the JEDD. Mr. Liff has alluded to some of those things in the past. One of the comments was, there are other economic development opportunities that we can do right now. It's like, what does this mean? You want to have it your way? You want to build Burger King and other franchises on the prison property and serve us the JEDD burger. We have to pay for it but we don't get to eat it. I'm sorry but this is the blue collar version. He talks about by widening the roads and making them safer that it could bring some business. Really? What's that buy? You guys ever see that movie, Field of Dreams, build it and they will come. (Chuckle) Whose dreams? What about our dreams? We got families. We work hard. We provide services. We lock up convicted felons to keep you guys safe and this is the way we get treated. That's wrong. Cuts in state budgets have forced local governments to get creative and they have done just that by proposing the JEDD. Governor Kasich suggested that we get together find creative ways to bring more revenue to the municipalities, townships and the villages to help them financially fill the down trend. We did exactly what was recommended to us, to find revenue. 'We did exactly what was recommended' that is what he said. Are you kidding? Do you guys really think that Governor Kasich really meant to come down there and raise taxes on us? Do really think that? I don't think that is what he meant at all. I think what he meant was to establish responsible, sustainable budgets. If that included staffing cuts, budget cuts, like everyone else has had to incur, including ourselves, that's what he meant. He didn't mean all that. The last comment and I am out of here, 'the public isn't really happy with what the prison is doing'. What is that? An attempt to belittle and berate us? What, you don't like us, so we get a "don't like you tax"? So you see Councilmembers, this is not only about just a tax grab. It is a tax stab to the hearts of the people that work at the Orient Complex. This is a hate tax in the name of the JEDD. That's what this is. Thank You".

Solicitor Hess called on Mr. David French. Mr. French stood up and I quote, "My name is Dave French and I want to touch on a few issues plus what has already been spoken here. No one wants to see anyone laid off for any reason. When DRC tried to reduce the cost that was being paid to Scioto Township Fire Department, during negotiations, DRC was able to reduce costs with Scioto starting July 1, 2010, which resulted in a reduction of \$ 781,634 in years '09 & '10 fiscal years down to \$ 650,000 in '11, which resulted in a reduction for DRC of \$ 131,634. However, during the course of fiscal year '11, the service for this was bid out where Scioto Township had the opportunity to bid and did so. However, another company was significantly lower than Scioto Township Fire Department. As a result, Scioto Township Fire Department had to reduce their staffing levels, as I understand that it was by 2. While I do not know specifically how many employees, full or part time, were effected, it is not the wishes of OCC staff for this to happen. DRC had to reduce costs and this was an effective way to do so. I will give you an example. For the first year, fiscal '12 when we switched contracts with Scioto to the other contractor, DRC spent \$ 100,000 for the complex for the same period that DRC would have paid Scioto \$ 650,000. That was for one year. That was your tax money we saved. In fiscal year '13, from July 1, '12 to mid-May of '13, OCC had paid \$ 45,000 instead of \$ 650,000. Someone needs to explain to me how DRC is not being cost effective by reducing cost from \$ 650,000 to \$ 100,000 or down to \$ 45,000. DRC paid approximately \$ 145,000 for two years of service vs \$ 1,431,000, again for the same service. This money is being spent is everyone's tax money, straight out of the State's budget. I can't find the information on the Township website anymore, but previously I think I read that OCC accounted for 25% of all runs. If that is anywhere accurate, now Scioto Township can concentrate on that 25% as savings and a reduction in costs and give that back to and support the remaining persons within the County. One of Scioto Township's Lutenient's came up and spoke saying he pays his income taxes. Well good for him, wherever he pays them to. I pay my income taxes to, just like everybody else in this room. However, I would like to point out one thing, he can't even call it what it is. It's a JEDD, not an income

tax. Again this is a specific cost to OCC employees, not anyone else. Another Scioto Township Fire Department employee came up and spoke about how hard it is out there. Times are tough. He is exactly right. But it stops there. This individual went on to say, it's essentially wrong for the JEDD, in so many words, but someone's got to pay it. So it has to be us, the DRC employees, so his family can eat. Well, excuse me but I have a family too. Just like a lot of people in this room. Stop trying to take money away from my family. I have to live within my budgets, so does Scioto Township Fire Department. Everyone's cost of gasoline, electric, water, car/homeowner's insurance, groceries are going up and up. It's not just happening to the people at the Scioto Township Fire Department and the citizens of Commercial Point. OCC/DRC employees are not paying any less than you are. The increase cost in business services are affecting us all, not just the Fire Department. I cannot find this on the web page any longer either. Previously it stated that when the levy failed, it would cost, the proposed levy would cost the homeowner of a \$ 100,000 home, \$ .52/per day if the levy passed. That's \$ 188 a year approximately. Can anyone in this room tell me with a reasonable explanation, why myself, should pay \$ 3.27 per day vs. \$ .52 per day just because I work over here. How is that fair? Bottom line here is the Scioto Township Fire Department was living high on the hog for years making millions off the DRC at the expense of taxpayers around the State of Ohio. It's time for Scioto Township Fire Department to get off the DRC welfare and live within their budget. It is not the fault of OCC employees that money got cut off. It is not fair, that we should be singled out and pay for the lost revenue. The Scioto Township Fire Department was greedy and are now trying to put their hand back in the cookie jar and make the employees of OCC pay for lost DRC welfare which they have benefited from over the years. It is not right to pass this JEDD at the expense of the OCC employees. If the roles were reversed, you too would be saying the same thing I am, and the rest of the people would be against this JEDD."

Solicitor Hess called on Mr. Mike Struckman. Mr. Struckman stood up and I quote, "I am Mike Struckman, for those of you that don't know me, I am one of the trustees in the township. I am not going to read anything, I am just going to address some of the things that Mr. Young said and a few other short statements. First thing is, we know no one else wants to pay taxes. We don't either. I don't want to pay Commercial Point tax. I don't live here. I know some of the wardens pay over 2% wherever they live. Mr. Young spoke at the township meeting up there, that 67% or 68% of the employees over there already pay some form of an income tax. So when he said we are looking at 1,100 employees adding additional funds, according to his own statements at the township building; that is not true. He said some place around 37% to 38% are already paying 2% where they live at this time, which would be a credit that the city would lose. The employees would not pay an additional 2%. He spoke about the acreage and the economic development. It can be done anywhere in Scioto Township. Doesn't have to be done in the JEDD areas that he is stating about. As he said, I know of eight attorneys that have looked at this. Not all of them have been paid. We haven't had one attorney tell us that it is illegal that they can find. Grove City is a 2% tax, Mr. Young, instead of a 2.5% or 2.25% whatever you are stating. One of the gentlemen spoke about Mt. Sterling over there, the fire department. That is a volunteer fire department. We have a full time fire department here. There is a difference in the money that you pay with full time service vs. volunteer department. The other thing I would like to say here, I guess is the Village they run you down, you get 10% or I mean \$ 10,000. You all are in the township. You are all going to benefit just like anybody else in the township here. Whether it's on the roads, fire service or whatever we do in the future. Just because we talked about the fire service mainly, that's because it's been hurt. It's hurt people in the township here because we don't have the squads that run when people need them. People have to wait until Harrison or maybe Mt. Sterling can get over here to help. So we thought that would be one of the better things to start out with if this JEDD goes through. It's to bring the fire department up for the residents of Scioto Township. That's what we are here for. As a trustee in Scioto Township, my job is to look after the people of Scioto Township the best that I can. So I

think that is why we started with the fire department. We can go to the roads. We can go to anything. As I spoke in the newspaper, this thing will run for fifty years. We don't know where it will be five years down the road or ten years down the road. I did speak about a 911 call center. If we build that here or wherever we build it in Pickaway County, it helps everyone in the County if it goes through. We will do a 911 and if it gets out and we put it into a single building, it will save tax dollars in Circleville and the County here. We are all paying taxes in the County. I guess the other thing that I have here is if I can answer a question for anyone. Mr. Hollon asked, "Do you believe, Mr. Struckman, that the comments you made in the Circleville Herald about what Governor Kasich's intent was about finding other ways, was to tax people who work at the Orient Complex, was part of that?"

At this time, Solicitor Hess interrupted and thanked Mr. Struckman for wanting to answer questions, and said the purpose of this meeting was for Councilmembers to hear the public's comments.

Mr. Brian Liff wanted to clarify and said, "The contract that Council was voting on, in black and white states a 2.25% tax. Not a 2% that we are being told. Once again, what you are being told is not what is in black and white." Solicitor Hess thanked Mr. Liff.

Solicitor Hess said that concludes all the public comments.